



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Central Michigan

Bay County Hampton Charter Finn Road Park Improvements \$182,300
Township

Development to improve access to Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron. The site is on the Saginaw Birding Trail and improvements include a 1/3 mile path through woodlands and wetlands with an observation tower overlooking the Bay. The tower will include seating and interpretive signage. The site also serves as a trailhead for the Saginaw Bay Blueways Water Trail. Improvements to the boat launch area include parking, a new boat dock and boating access improvements.

Calhoun County City of Albion Albion River Trail Expansion Project \$294,000

Development to construct 1 mile of trail at the hub of several regional trail networks, including the Iron Belle Trail, the Great Lake to Lake Trail, and the North County Trail. The trail will commence at the eastern terminus of the existing Albion River Trail in Victory Park, and will extend south through Albion College property that includes agricultural fields and a woodlot, and overlooks the Nancy G. Held Equestrian Center. The trail will exit through the Riverside Cemetery, where it will connect with M-99. The 10'-wide trail will provide access to scenic off-road portions of Albion College property while making an important connection with several regional trail networks.

Eaton County Delta Charter Township Hawk Meadow Restrooms \$49,500

Development to construct a small restroom building at Hawk Meadow Park. The park contains 4.5 miles of trails that traverse close to 150 acres of agricultural fields, forests, and a small pond, and is the most popular park in the Township for walking, running, cross country skiing, and wildlife viewing. The park also abuts the Capital City Bird Sanctuary which is operated by Michigan Audubon. The current portable toilet is no longer sufficient due to the increased demand on the park. The new restroom building will serve both users of Hawk Meadow Park as well as the adjacent bird sanctuary.

Genesee County Genesee County Atlas Township Section - Iron Belle Trail \$300,000

Development to construct approximately 1 mile of trail along the Gale Road right-of-way which will extend the Iron Belle Trail and tie into the Genesee County Non-Motorized Trail Plan. The trail will provide safe access to Oaktree Elementary School at its southern end, and will then travel north along Gale Road until it ties into existing sidewalks in the Village of Atlas on the northern end. The trail will also tie into an existing non-motorized trail that travels west from M-15 in the Village of Goodrich to Gale Road. Trail amenities such as benches, signage, and trash receptacles will also be included.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Central Michigan (continued)

Huron County	City of Harbor Beach	Waterfront Enhancement Project	\$295,000
<i>Development to improve a narrow strip of property that once hosted a U.S. Coast Guard Station on the shore of Lake Huron. Lake access will be provided by establishing a 540' pier on bottomlands where a catwalk once connected the offshore station to the shore. The project will also include an access road, an access pathway, parking lot improvements, a canoe/kayak launch, lighting, benches, and bike racks. Universal design principles will be incorporated into several of the items to be constructed.</i>			
Ingham County	Meridian Charter Township	Accessible Pavilion - North Meridian Road Park	\$50,000
<i>Development to construct a universally accessible pavilion as an addition to an existing restroom building in North Meridian Park, which is a popular recreational site in Meridian Township with a sledding hill, soccer fields, walking and cross country skiing trails, sand volleyball courts, and a playground area. The four-seasons park sees high use but does not have any structures that provide shade. The pavilion will provide a much needed shade area as well as an additional gathering area for park users.</i>			
Isabella County	Village of Shepherd	Mid-Michigan Community Pathway Phase I	\$296,000
<i>Development of a 6.8-mile non-motorized trail connecting the Deerfield Road Pathway in Mt. Pleasant and Central Michigan University with the Triangle Pathway in the Village of Shepherd. The trail is part of a plan to connect the Pere Marquette Trail, Fred Meijer Heartland Trail and Fred Meijer CIS Trail through central Michigan.</i>			
Jackson County	City of Jackson	Fourth Street Connector Development Project	\$300,000
<i>Development to construct 1/2 mile of trail that will tie into the City of Jackson's Inter-City Trail, which is part of the Iron Belle Trail and is the main corridor that ties together regional trail systems in the Jackson area. The trail will connect to the popular Ella Sharp Park, a middle school, an elementary school, residential areas, and a small commercial district.</i>			
Jackson County	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Lakelands Trail Development: M-52 to Parnall Road	\$300,000
<i>Development to improve 13 miles of the 23.5-mile Lakelands State Trail, which currently runs along a rail corridor between Jackson and Pinckney and is a part of the Iron Belle Trail and the Great Lake to Lake Trail. The portion of the trail included in this project is currently unimproved rail bed which is uneven and inconsistent for non-motorized use. The proposed project will consist of limestone and asphalt surfacing and bridge improvements for the purpose of enhancing accessibility for multiple types of users, and to bring the trail to current state and federal standards. The 13-mile stretch of trail traverses large tracts of agricultural land, woodlots, and wetlands that will provide wildlife viewing opportunities that otherwise could not be accessed, while transitioning into urban settings and connecting communities at both ends.</i>			



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Central Michigan (continued)

Jackson County	Jackson County	Sparks Park Inter-City Trail Connector Development Project	\$173,500
-----------------------	-----------------------	---	------------------

Development to construct 1/2 mile of trail through a natural setting that includes wetlands, uplands, and wooded areas. The trail will connect to the Inter-City Trail on the south end and Sparks Park on the north end. The project will also include a parking lot on the north end and 250 feet of boardwalk with an observation deck in the wetland areas. The project will provide access to a natural area and wildlife viewing opportunities in an urban setting.

Jackson County	Summit Township	Horton Road Trail Development	\$94,000
-----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------

Development to construct 1/2 mile of trail that will connect to the existing Weatherwax Road Trail on the south end and the City of Jackson's proposed Fourth Street Connector Development (TF15-0097) on the north end. The proposed trail traverses residential and commercial areas and will provide Township residents with a connection to the region's trail network and various flagship parks like Ella Sharp Park and Sparks Park. The trail will also provide safe non-motorized access alternative to riding along a busy stretch of road in the Township.

Saginaw County	Bridgeport Charter Township	Bridgeport Cass River Trailhead	\$275,800
-----------------------	--	---------------------------------	------------------

Development of trailhead facilities for Bridgeport's Cass River Pathway which is part of the Iron Belle Trail. The site is located on the Cass River in downtown Bridgeport. All improvements will be universally accessible and include renovating an existing building into restrooms, a new pavilion, a wildlife viewing and fishing platform, landscaping and other amenities.

Saginaw County	Bridgeport Charter Township	Cass River Water Trail - Hoffmann Site	\$50,000
-----------------------	--	--	-----------------

Development of a universally accessible canoe/kayak launch site on the Cass River Water Trail (CRWT). This project will include parking, paths, a floating accessible canoe/kayak launch and an interpretive sign. From this site it is a 3-mile paddle to Bridgeport Township's Davis Park, a 6-mile paddle to an accessible launch site in Frankenmuth and an 11-mile paddle to Tuscola Township's park.

Saginaw County	City of Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth Memorial Park Boat Launch Improvements	\$225,700
-----------------------	----------------------------	---	------------------

Development of fishing facilities and renovation of the only Cass River boat launch within 8 miles. The site also serves as a trailhead for the Cass River Water Trail. Improvements will include an expanded boat launch, parking lot, signage, access routes and an accessible fishing dock and overlook.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Northern Michigan

Alpena County **DNR - Parks and Recreation Division** Alpena to Hillman Trail Development Phase 1 **\$300,000**

The Alpena to Hillman Rail Trail currently consists of 24 miles of undeveloped trail between the communities of Alpena and Hillman in Alpena and Montmorency Counties. The existing rail bed and cinder surface make the trail uneven and difficult for some non-motorized trail users. The proposed project will improve surfacing and bridge crossings for 13.5 miles of the trail from Franklin Street in Alpena to M-65 to provide access to multiple types of users and to bring the trail to current state and federal standards. The scenic rail corridor will attract visitors and provide transportation alternatives to M-32, which the trail parallels, connecting businesses, schools and residential areas. It will also provide fishing and wildlife viewing recreation opportunities as well as local economic business opportunities once the project is completed.

Clare County **Village of Farwell** Farwell Park Placemaking Improvements **\$25,000**

Development of Farwell Park in the center of downtown Farwell. The site is adjacent to the Pere Marquette State Trail and the City Hall. Improvements include pathways throughout the site and to a Civil War-era obelisk erected in 1894, landscaping and signs to interpret the centuries-old trees on the site and their historical context to the village.

Grand Traverse County **City of Traverse City** Clancy Park Improvements **\$45,000**

Development project for the renovation of a park. All improvements are universally accessible and include playground renovation, shelter, walking paths, a natural area and amenities.

Grand Traverse County **Garfield Charter Township** Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Improvements **\$100,000**

Development project at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve to enhance public access to and enjoyment of the Boardman River and to provide a trailhead for the Boardman River Trail. The trailhead will serve both as water trailhead and non-motorized trailhead. All improvements will be universally accessible and include parking, paths, floating kayak dock/launch, picnic pavilion, changing building and modern vault restroom, interpretive signs and trail maps and renovation of the existing pickleball courts.

Iosco County **Iosco County** Iosco Exploration Trail, Phase 1 **\$296,000**

Development of a 2.2-mile trail and pedestrian bridge that is part of the the Iosco Exploration Trail and Iron Belle Trail. It will connect the community of Oscoda to the Oscoda Schools complex. The trail will cross the Au Sable River and run through the Huron-Manistee Nation Forest.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Northern Michigan (continued)

Roscommon County	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Higgins Lake Regional Trail Connector	\$300,000
-------------------------	--	--	------------------

Development project to create universally accessible trails within North and South Higgins Lake State Park to fill a gap in the regional trail around the lake and to be part of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. The trail will provide connections to the park's facilities including restrooms, lodging, picnicking, swimming, and scenic lake views and serve as a trailhead for Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. The project will improve the economy and tourism of the region by attracting visitors. This project is part of the broad plan to connect to regional trails and communities in the area, including Michigan's Iron Belle Trail and a 23.3-mile-long trail around Higgins Lake. Future plans will connect the trail to the Crawford County and Houghton Lake trail systems connecting schools, villages and businesses.

Southeast Michigan

Oakland County	City of Ferndale	Martin Road Park Improvements	\$75,000
-----------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------

Development to add a permanent walking path and universally accessible play structure. These improvements will enhance recreational opportunities for the surrounding community as well as increase accessibility throughout the park. In addition to the walking path and play structure, the project will also include recycling bins and Michigan native tree plantings for the park.

Oakland County	City of Ferndale	Harding Park Improvements	\$75,000
-----------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------

Development to include a new walking path and universally accessible play structure. These improvements will offer additional recreational opportunities to the City of Ferndale and improve accessibility throughout the park. In addition to the new walking path and play structure, Michigan native tree plantings and recycling bins will also be added to the park.

Oakland County	Orion Charter Township	Clarkston Road Regional Pathway Connection Project	\$300,000
-----------------------	-------------------------------	---	------------------

Development to construct an 8' pathway and 10' boardwalk between Pine Tree Rd and Thistle Valley Lane and also to provide pedestrian access to Camp Agawam. The long-range goal will be to extend the trail from Thistle Valley Lane to the Polly Ann Trail, providing safe passage to numerous recreation facilities such as Orion Oaks, Friendship and Civic Center Parks, Orion Center, and Orion Township's Library. Additionally, the pathway will serve area elementary students, whose campuses are within ½ mile of the project.

St. Clair County	City of Algonac	Riverfront Park Lighting Replacement	\$50,000
-------------------------	------------------------	---	-----------------

Development to replace a deteriorated lighting system with a new energy efficient version including new poles, bases, electrical wiring and fixtures. The lighting replacement project will substantially improve safety and aesthetics at the park while at the same time yielding significant cost savings for the city by reducing operations and maintenance costs to light the five-acre park on the St. Clair River. The park includes a four-block shoreline boardwalk, gazebo, benches, boat launch, visitor center and historical museum.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Southeast Michigan (continued)

Washtenaw County	City of Ann Arbor	Gallup Park Universal Access Playground and Site Amenities	\$300,000
-------------------------	--------------------------	--	------------------

Development to construct a universally accessible playground at Gallup Park. The current playground equipment will be replaced with new features and surfacing that will be inclusive, stimulating, and fun for all users, whether fully independent, or with mobility, sensory, or visual impairments. Specific playground features will include interpretive signs with Braille, a sensory garden, wide ramps and slides that enable side by side activity, adaptive swings, and moving play activities such as whirl and spring riders with back supports. Other universally accessible features of the project include grills, picnic tables, benches, a fishing pier, and a canoe/kayak launch. Lastly, the project will reconfigure a portion of the Border-to-Border Trail (which is part of the Iron Belle Trail) within the park to make it safer for trail riders and children using the play equipment.

Wayne County	City of Southgate	Market Center Park - Pavilion Improvements	\$49,500
---------------------	--------------------------	--	-----------------

Development to construct additional wings on the main pavilion at the recently established Market Center Park. The wings added to the pavilion will incorporate principles of universal accessibility. The additional space in the pavilion will provide supplemental seating areas for users of the adjacent amphitheater and surrounding park area.

Wayne County	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Belle Isle Lake Okonoka Picnic Area Development	\$300,000
---------------------	--	---	------------------

Development to relocate a major picnic area for the park. Picnicking was identified as the number 1 "common activity" from the 2010 Belle Isle Conservancy public survey. The picnic area will be moved to the south side of Woodside Drive, a scenic location along the shore of Lake Okonoka, to better serve park visitors. The project will include new picnic shelters, universally accessible walks, parking lot improvements, picnic nodes and playground equipment. The project will enhance picnicking, playground, and fishing opportunities on the island, while improving site drainage and aiding the restoration of the 200-acre wooded wetland area adjacent to the former picnic area.

Wayne County	Redford Charter Township	Kraft Park Multi-Sports Complex Renovation	\$50,000
---------------------	---------------------------------	--	-----------------

Development to include renovation of an existing tennis court area in Kraft Park. The tennis court is currently underutilized and will be renovated into a multi-use facility that includes a tennis court, basketball court, and skate park. To help ensure safety and minimize interference, fencing will be constructed between the separate areas. The multi-use area will better serve the needs of the residents and will encourage participation by youngsters, young adults, and families.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Upper Peninsula

Alger County DNR - Parks and Recreation Division Laughing Whitefish Falls Scenic Site Access Improvements \$300,000

Redevelopment to provide visitors with improved access to one of Michigan's most beautiful waterfalls. Developed in the 1970's the existing improvements include a parking lot, pathways, boardwalk and a scenic overlook. Although the parking lot and access pathways were recently improved, the wooden boardwalks and overlook structures have exceeded their usable life. This project, by the MDNR Parks and Recreation Division, will repair or replace the existing boardwalk and scenic overlook structures to improve safety and improve accessibility as well as serving as a convenient trailhead on Michigan's Iron Belle Trail.

Delta County City of Gladstone Bay de Noc Trail System \$300,000

Development to construct the Little Bay de Noc Trail, part of the Iron Belle Trail in the City of Gladstone, along US-2 for 2.5 miles along Little Bay de Noc on Lake Michigan; one of the most scenic stretches of the route. This portion of the shoreline is currently inaccessible to the public. The trail will be ten feet wide with four overlooks for fishing, resting, and bird watching on Lake Michigan. The new Bay de Noc Trail system will provide a safe and scenic non-motorized travel route for pedestrians and cyclists between Escanaba Township and Gladstone.

Gogebic County Marenisco Township Donald McKenzie Memorial Park Enhancements \$295,000

Development to recreate the community park and regional trailhead with a new lighted pavilion, parking, walkways, picnic area, and landscaping. The pavilion will shelter a new ice skating rink and warming center with accessible restrooms and serve as the Visitor Center with displays for regional trail maps. New walking trails will be installed throughout the park and a picnic area will feature accessible picnic tables so the park will be welcoming to all individuals. New parking will also be provided with accessible spaces. Native Michigan landscaping will further emphasize the bountiful nature of the area.

Gogebic County Watersmeet Township Whitefish Trail Restoration Project \$108,000

Development to construct part of a planned 40-mile Wilderness Lakes Trail System. The proposed trail follows the route of the historic Whitefish Lake Road, originally constructed for Ladybird Johnson's motorcade when she dedicated the adjacent Sylvania Wilderness in 1967. After the dedication, the road was destroyed and abandoned for 45 years. This 2.5-mile segment extends from Thousand Island Lake Road on the North to intersect it again on the South, providing a safer alternative for cyclists using a narrow and winding section of this shared road that is currently the county-designated bike route. The new route traverses a beautiful landscape of pristine forests and inland lakes.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Upper Peninsula (*continued*)

Mackinac County City of St. Ignace Little Bear East Recreation Park **\$280,000**
Development

Development of the Little Bear East Recreation Park as a community sports park and trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail and North Country Scenic Trail which traverses the site. Improvements include new pathways, access to a large pond via a fishing and viewing platform, and development of two softball fields to accommodate community softball programs and allow for attraction of weekend tournaments. A new restroom and concession building will serve park visitors, hikers, and ATV trail users who access connecting motorized and non-motorized recreational trails to the north.

Marquette County City of Marquette Father Marquette Park **\$140,000**
Accessibility/Improvement Plan

Redevelopment of this important historic site so that it provides access to persons of all ability levels. The project will feature pathways throughout the park and up to a large bronze sculpture of the famed explorer, Father Jacques Marquette. The work will feature an elevated viewing platform which provides dramatic vistas of Lake Superior. The project will also provide for an accessible picnic area. The park serves as a trailhead for the Iron Belle/Iron Ore Heritage/North Country Scenic Trails which pass by this site. Paved walkways will provide an accessible connection to the park from the Front Street trail routes. Other project improvements include bike racks, benches and native Michigan landscaping.

Marquette County Marquette Charter Township Schwemwood Iron Ore Heritage Trailhead **\$50,000**
Parking/Path/Wetland

The Schwemwood Iron Ore Heritage Trailhead Parking, Path and Wetland Project will provide universal access to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT) for people of all ages and abilities. The site is Marquette Township's only IOHT trailhead. The parking area will be designed to exceed minimum accessibility standards and visitors will utilize a new universally-designed access pathway from the lower level parking area up to grade-level access on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail at minimal gradients. An additional feature of the project will be the development of an overlook to a forested wetland habitat including an educational nature interpretation sign. Site furnishings and native landscaping will further enhance the attractiveness of this wooded wayside trailhead for park visitors.

Menominee County Spalding Township Veterans Memorial Park Improvement **\$81,900**
Project

Development to construct over 3000 feet of new nature trails throughout the park, enhancing the park for both day-use and campground visitors. The limestone trail will include a 350-foot boardwalk through the park's wetlands. Interpretive signage along the trail will educate the public about local flora and fauna. The park serves as a major trailhead for both the Iron Belle Trail and State ATV and snowmobile trails, with parking. Dark-sky compliant LED lighting in the parking area will facilitate wintertime night use and deter vandalism without adding light pollution.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Western Michigan

Cass County	Cass County	Dodd Park Water Trail Development Project	\$277,500
--------------------	--------------------	---	------------------

Development to install new barrier-free site amenities to support the development of a new water trail on the Dowagiac River. The Dowagiac River is the largest cold water river system in Southwest Michigan. Development will aid water trail users and other park visitors with trailhead signage, Universal Design compliant kayak/canoe launch, bridge, and parking expansion. In addition, there will be new ADA-compliant waterless, modern restrooms and camping area complete with two camper cabins, picnic grills and fire rings along with accessible pathways.

Kent County	City of Grand Rapids	Huff Park Boardwalk Renovation & Restroom Improvements	\$300,000
--------------------	-----------------------------	--	------------------

Development to include renovations at Huff Park - an 87-acre urban park. Improvements include upgrades to the existing restrooms for energy efficiency and ADA compliance and renovation of over one-half mile of universally accessible boardwalk. The boardwalk will provide interpretive access to a 20-acre wetland area identified as a preservation priority in the several greenway plans in the region.

Muskegon County	City of Roosevelt Park	Fordham Street Playfield Improvements	\$15,000
------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------

Development of a playground in an urban, neighborhood park. Improvements include replacement of old, unsafe playground equipment with new equipment and surfacing that meets current safety and accessibility standards.

Ottawa County	City of Zeeland	Zeeland Splash Park Expansion	\$50,000
----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------

Development project to expand the recently completed City of Zeeland Splash Park. The site serves as the only organized public open space in downtown Zeeland as a splash pad and gathering space for passive use and organized events. Improvements include a shade structure, a lawn sunning area, landscaping and amenities.

Ottawa County	Crockery Township	Extension of North Bank Trail	\$45,000
----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------

Development of a 1.75-mile section of the North Bank Trail. The proposed extension will connect the North Bank Trail from Crockery Township to trail networks in Spring Lake Township and Grand Haven.



2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Recommendations

Western Michigan (continued)

Ottawa County Holland Charter Township Dunton Park Shoreline Renovation & Barrier \$300,000.00
Free Kayak Launch

Development of trailhead facilities for the Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan Water Trails and renovation of HB Dunton Park. Improvements include accessible canoe/kayak launch, floating fishing pier, picnic shelter, playground, viewing areas, shaded seating areas and a restroom building with a kayak rental, concession and storage area. The park is used by the public for passive recreation, water access and outdoor education programming.

Van Buren City of South Haven Black River Park Skid Pier Replacement \$37,500.00
County

Development to include replacement of two skid piers at the Black River Park boat launch, which is located 1 mile from Lake Michigan and is the only public boat launch site that provides access to Lake Michigan from Saugatuck to Benton Harbor, a distance of approximately 45 miles. The existing skid piers were constructed in 1974 and rehabbed in 1992, and are deteriorating due to age and wear from the river.

Van Buren City of South Haven North Beach Park Improvements \$300,000.00
County

Development to construct various improvements to the existing North Beach Park. While the park is a pristine stretch of beachfront along Lake Michigan, the park's existing amenities and infrastructure, built between 40 and 60 years ago, do not reflect today's park design standards. The current configuration limits both accessibility to the park and also negatively impacts the park visitor experience. The project will involve beach enhancements, water trail access and accessibility improvements to enhance the overall experience of park users. Some of the major aspects of the project include an upgraded children's play area, a beach access mat, a canoe/kayak launch, boardwalk, shoreline stabilization, and parking lot improvements.